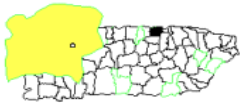
SCORPIO RECYCLING, INC. SITE
TOA BAJA
PUERTO RICO



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 01
Bayamon District
Toa Baja

EPA ID# PRD987376662

Site Description

The Scorpio Recycling, Inc. (SRI) Site is located at state road #2, km 19.7 Interior, in the Candelaria Ward of Toa Baja. The geographic coordinates of the site are 18 degree 24'33" N latitude and 66 degree 13'55" W longitude . To reach the site travel west from the town of Bayamón approximately 5 miles on state road #2 and turn left on km 19.7 into Acuña Industrial Park. This facility is a metal recycling company that buys all types of metal and sell it to foundries in the USA, Brazil, Spain and Japan. SRI comprises an area of approximately 6.5 acres. SRI is owned by a partnering of 4 persons. The facility started operations in 1972 under the name of Astur Metals, Inc. and changed it to its actual name in 1989. The property contains five main buildings: (1) the batteries accumulation and aluminum cans compacting building; (2) the aluminum processing building; (3) the offices and red metal processing building; (4) the maintenance shop building; and (5) the batteries and other metals accumulation building.

SRI is located between karst hills considered a recharge area to the aquifer. The closest surface water is the Mexico Creek found to the south of the site at approximately 0.39 upstream miles from the site. The population within a 4-mile radius from the site relies on the Bayamón-La Plata blended system. There are seven (7) public wells in use within this radius. The closest operating public supply wells to the site are the Campanilla Wells No. 6, 7, and 8 which are found between 1 to 2 miles range and are considered primary targets since the site is located in a recharge area from groundwater and in karst topography. The apportioned population served by these wells is approximately 5,495 people.

On October 8, 1991 and July 14, 1993, representative of EPA collected soil samples at the Site which showed high concentration of barium, lead and vanadium. The total metal analysis in soil gave the following maximum concentration; barium concentration of 120.2 ppm, lead concentration of 9,530 part per million (ppm) and 1,312 ppm of vanadium. Surface water run off showed concentration of 57,300 part per billion (ppb) of lead , 330 ppb of barium and 339 ppb of vanadium.

In April 1999, TAT collected samples at the Site as part of an ESI. The highest surface soil concentration identified the presence of 109,000 ppm lead in the former battery crushing area. The average lead concentration identified at that time was 18,735 ppm.

The mechanism for past release to the environment is based upon the improper operating and disposal practices employed at the Site for many years. Contaminants were released to the soil at the Site, in particular within the former battery crushing area and the sinkhole. Documentation exists identifying waste material, including drums, tanks and containers containing sulfuric acid directly into the sinkhole area. There is sufficient evidence to document that the release of these contaminants have had a direct impact on local flora and fauna.

Since the time when battery crushing had ceased, this portion of the Site has been used for the temporary storage of scrap steel. Available facility records indicate that Scorpio receives approximately 9-million pounds of scrap material per month from outside sources. As the value of steel rises, large quantities are removed from the Site and shipped to market. During depressed market times, the scrap is stockpiled. Due to Site space constraints, scrap is often moved and consolidated in other portions of the Site. As a result, when a pile is removed from the former battery crushing area, some of the contaminants are believed to be relocated to other portions of the Site.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal actions

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Final Date: October 1999

Threats and Contaminants

Soil is contaminated with lead, vanadium and barium. A release of contaminant to the groundwater is suspected due to the fact that the area where the site is located consists of karst topography and specifically is a recharge area to the aquifer. People who accidentally ingest or come into direct contact with the contaminants from the affected areas may be at risk.

Cleanup Approach

EPA is planning to conduct a removal action at the site. The removal action consisted of: (1) excavation and disposal of contaminated soil from the former battery crushing area and sinkhole/ravine area, (2) Backfilling and grading of all areas disrupted during the removal, (3) installation of an eight-foot high chain-link fence along the property boundary between the SRI and Cardona properties and (3) any other actions determined to be necessary to stabilize the Site. At the same time, EPA is conducting a groundwater Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

Response Action Status

A removal action is schedule to start on February 2001. A groundwater Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study started on September 2000.

Environmental Progress

The Action Memorandum to assign $2 million for the removal action was approved on October 2000.